

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Original) An apparatus for use in a well having a main bore and a lateral branch, the  
2 lateral branch comprising an electrical device, the apparatus comprising:  
3 an inductive coupler mechanism to electrically communicate electrical signaling in the  
4 main bore with the electrical device in the lateral branch.

1 2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus to communicate electrical signaling from a main bore of  
2 a well to equipment in a lateral branch, comprising:  
3 a connector mechanism adapted to connect equipment in the main bore to equipment in  
4 the lateral branch ~~equipment~~;  
5 and  
6 a first inductive coupler portion attached to the connector mechanism to communicate  
7 electrical signaling with the lateral branch equipment.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising an electrical cable  
2 connected to the first inductive coupler portion.

1 4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a second inductive coupler  
2 portion connected to the electrical cable and attached to the connector mechanism, the second  
3 inductive coupler portion adapted to communicate signaling with the main bore equipment.

1 5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a third inductive coupler portion  
2 that is part of the main bore equipment to inductively couple to the second inductive coupler  
3 portion.

1 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a fourth inductive coupler  
2 portion that is part of the lateral branch equipment to inductively couple to the first inductive  
3 coupler portion.

1 7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the connector mechanism is further adapted  
2 to connect equipment in the main bore to equipment in a second lateral branch, the apparatus  
3 further comprising a second inductive coupler portion attached to the connector mechanism to  
4 communicate electrical signaling with the second lateral branch equipment.

1 8. (Original) A completion string for use in a well having a main bore and a lateral branch,  
2 comprising:

3 equipment in the main bore and in the lateral branch;

4 a first inductive coupler assembly proximal the equipment in the main bore;

5 a second inductive coupler assembly proximal the equipment in the lateral branch;

6 and

7 an electrical cable connecting the first and second inductive coupler assemblies.

1 9. (Original) The completion string of claim 8, further comprising equipment in a second  
2 lateral branch, the completion string further comprising a third inductive coupler assembly  
3 proximal the equipment in the lateral branch.

1 10. (Original) The completion string of claim 9, further comprising a fourth inductive  
2 coupler assembly proximal the main bore equipment and a second electrical cable connecting the  
3 third and fourth inductive coupler assemblies.

1 11. (Original) The completion string of claim 8, wherein the equipment in the main bore  
2 includes a tubing, the completion string further comprising a connector member between the  
3 tubing and the lateral branch equipment.

1 12. (Original) The completion string of claim 11, wherein the lateral branch equipment  
2 comprises an electrical device.

1 13. (Original) The completion string of claim 12, wherein the electrical device comprises a  
2 monitoring module.

1 14. (Original) The completion string of claim 12, wherein the electrical device comprises a  
2 control module.

1 15. (Original) The completion string of claim 11, further comprising a casing having a  
2 window open to the lateral branch, wherein the connector member extends through the casing  
3 window.

1 16. (Original) The completion string of claim 11 wherein the first inductive coupler  
2 assembly comprises one portion attached to the tubing and another portion attached to the  
3 connector member.

1 17. (Original) The completion string of claim 16, wherein the second inductive coupler  
2 assembly comprises one portion attached to the connector member and another portion attached  
3 to the lateral branch equipment.

1 18. (Original) The completion string of claim 8, further comprising a hydraulic control line  
2 adapted to extend from the main bore to the lateral branch.

1 19. (Original) The completion string of claim 18, further comprising a lateral branch  
2 connector adapted to connect the main bore equipment to lateral branch equipment, the lateral  
3 branch connector comprising a conduit to carry the cable and a conduit to carry the hydraulic  
4 control line.

1 20. (Original) A method of communicating between main bore equipment and lateral branch  
2 equipment in a well, comprising:

3 providing a first inductive coupler assembly electrically connected to the main bore  
4 equipment and in communication with the lateral branch equipment; and

5 transmitting electrical signaling over an electrical cable connected to the first inductive  
6 coupler assembly.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
2 providing a second inductive coupler assembly electrically connected to the lateral  
3 branch equipment; and  
4 electrically connecting the second inductive coupler assembly to the first inductive  
5 coupler assembly.

1 22. (New) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a tubing having a lower portion, the  
2 lower portion of the tubing having a second inductive coupler portion,  
3 wherein the connector mechanism has a third inductive coupler portion and a receptacle  
4 to receive the lower portion of the tubing to position the second inductive coupler portion next to  
5 the third inductive coupler portion.

1 23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a module to engage an internal  
2 profile of the connector mechanism, the module having a fourth inductive coupler portion that is  
3 positioned next to the first inductive coupler portion when the module is engaged to the internal  
4 profile of the connector mechanism.

1 24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the module comprises one of a sensor module  
2 and a control module.

1 25. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:  
2 providing a connector to connect the main bore equipment to the lateral branch  
3 equipment, wherein the connector has a receptacle to receive the main bore equipment, the  
4 connector having a portion of the first inductive coupler assembly.

1 26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the main bore equipment includes a tubing  
2 having a lower portion to engage in the receptacle of the connector, the lower portion of the  
3 tubing having another portion of the first inductive coupler assembly.

- 1 27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a module into the
- 2 connector, the module having a portion of the second inductive coupler assembly, and the
- 3 connector having another portion of the second inductive coupler assembly.